

## WEAR A HELMET



A helmet must be worn by every person driving or riding on a motorized snow vehicle or on a cutter, toboggan, sled or similar conveyance towed by a MSV on a serviced roadway or public trail. The helmet shall comply with standards established for motorcycle helmets. It is recommended that helmets should always be worn when driving a MSV.

## THE LAND OWNER'S LIABILITY

The owner or occupier of land owes no duty of care toward anyone driving or riding on a MSV or being towed by one, if the driver or rider is a trespasser or licensee. The owner-occupier does have the duty not to create danger with the deliberate intent of doing harm or damage to the trespasser or licensee.

## THE VEHICLE OWNER'S LIABILITY

If someone else uses your MSV with your consent you are jointly liable for any damages respecting damage and injury arising out of operation of the vehicle, or for penalties provided for any breach of provincial or municipal by-laws or regulations regarding motorized snow vehicles.

## INSURANCE

A person who drives a MSV on a highway or public trail must produce evidence when asked by a police officer that he is insured under a motor vehicle liability policy.

## COLLISION REPORTS

You must report to the police forthwith any collision on or off the highway that results in injury to any person or damage to property apparently exceeding \$100.

## TOW-BAR USE

Only a rigid tow-bar may be used when a MSV is towing a cutter, toboggan, sled or similar conveyance. Towing is prohibited on a serviced roadway except to cross the roadway at a 90-degree angle.

(This doesn't apply to a motorized snow vehicle being used to free a stuck vehicle or conveyance, or for an emergency rescue, or for trail maintenance.)

## GOOD MAINTENANCE

A well-maintained vehicle is a safer one. The owner of a MSV should ensure that it is kept in good working order, including the muffler.

The motorized snow vehicle is not designed for highway use, but if you must use the highway you'll be safer if you follow these suggestions . . .

- Be particularly careful on ice, packed snow or dry roads. Your vehicle's steering and braking systems were not designed for this kind of use.
- Drive defensively. Your vehicle is smaller than most on the highway and can't be so easily seen, especially at night.
- Be sure you know and obey the rules of the road.

The rules of the road for operation of motorized snow vehicles on the highway for the most part are similar to those rules contained in the Highway Traffic Act for operation of motor vehicles.

These include rules for:

Turns

Right-of-way

U-turns

Passing

Parking

Unnecessarily slow driving

Traffic Signs

Traffic lights

This folder is intended only as a guide to the complete information contained in the Ontario Motorized Snow Vehicles Act, and the regulations thereunder.

Check with the municipality in which you operate your motorized snow vehicle, for local by-laws.



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# A Guide to

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# Motorized Snow Vehicle Operations

in Ontario

# All Motorized Snow Vehicles must now be registered

## and must have a permit if used off the owner's land

### REGISTRATION

All Motorized Snow Vehicles must be registered under the new regulations now in effect. If your MSV has been previously registered, it must now be re-registered. Every dealer who sells a new MSV must register it on behalf of the owner with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications within six days of the sale. Do not drive your MSV anywhere until it has been registered with the Ministry.

The Registration Certificate bears a registration number which must be attached to, or painted on, both sides of the MSV's cowling. Numbers must not be less than 2" or more than 3" high and must contrast with the snow-mobile's colour. There is no fee for registration.

### PERMITS

In addition to registration, you must have a permit to drive your motorized snow vehicle, unless you are driving it only on land owned or occupied by yourself ... or in an exempted area in remote northwestern Ontario.

Fee for the annual permit is \$10.00. When your permit is issued it will be affixed to your Registration Certificate and you will be given two adhesive stickers and background patches which must be affixed to each side of the MSV's cowling between the registration number and the rear of the cowling.

### WHERE YOU CAN OR CAN'T DRIVE

You may operate your motorized snow vehicle on your own property, or on other land with the owner's written

permission. You may drive it on public trails, public parks, conservation areas, except where prohibited.

Along a King's Highway or secondary highway, except where prohibited, you may drive your MSV in the part of the right-of-way between the shoulder and the adjoining property fence, provided that you drive as far away from the serviced road as possible.

Generally, you may not drive on the serviced portion (from shoulder to shoulder) of a King's Highway or secondary highway, except to cross, and this you must do only at a 90-degree angle.

You may not operate a MSV anywhere on a freeway from fence to fence.

#### Local by-laws

Local municipalities have the right to pass by-laws regulating, governing or prohibiting the operation of MSV's anywhere within their boundaries, on or off the highway.

### HIGHWAY DRIVING

To drive a MSV along a highway, a person must be 16 years of age or older, and must hold a valid Ontario driver's licence.

#### WHAT IS A HIGHWAY?

The Highway Traffic Act defines a highway as "including a common or public highway, street, avenue, parkway, driveway, square, place, bridge, viaduct or trestle, designed and intended for, or used by, the general public for the passage of vehicles".

Even if your MSV has been registered previously, it must now be re-registered with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

Permit requirements apply in every part of Ontario, with the exception of certain designated remote northwestern areas.

### THE SPEED LIMITS

You may not drive a MSV faster than 15 miles per hour on a highway where the speed limit for cars is 30 m.p.h. or less or in any public park, conservation area, or exhibition grounds.

You may not drive faster than 30 miles an hour on any highway where the car speed limit is more than 30 miles an hour. This speed limit applies also to public trails, except where otherwise posted.

Municipal councils may, by by-law, set higher or lower speed limits for motorized snow vehicles for highways, public trails, parks, etc., under their jurisdiction. Check with the municipality for local by-laws.

### IDENTIFICATION

Carry your driver's licence when you are operating your MSV. You must show it when asked by a police officer or conservation officer, or provide your correct name and address, if not carrying it.

If you are operating your vehicle on someone else's property, you must also stop when asked by the owner to do so and identify yourself.

Failure to stop and identify yourself in the above circumstances can result in arrest.

### TRESPASSING

Knowingly or unknowingly trespassing on land while operating your MSV makes you guilty of an offence. On summary conviction you could be liable to a fine not exceeding \$500.

Permission to operate your vehicle on land other than your own must be obtained in writing; otherwise you could face a trespassing charge.